

Notice of Public Scoping
Grazing Permit Renewals
and
Land Health Assessments

Comment Period: Open until **October 31, 2005**

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Michael Jensen	Canyons of the Ancients Nat'l Monument P.O. Box 100 Dolores, CO 81323	(970) 882-6828	Michael_Jensen@co.blm.gov
Jennifer Rowe	Columbine Field Office P.O. Box 439 Bayfield, CO 81122	(970) 884-1429	jenniferrowe@fs.fed.us

The Dolores and Columbine Field Offices and the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) are soliciting public comments and concerns regarding the renewal of term grazing permits in fiscal year 2006. Field Office and National Monument staff will be completing analysis under guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and making decisions on the renewal of grazing permits for allotments shown in the table below. We are requesting your comments pertaining to management issues you have observed on the allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and resources found within specific allotments. Issues that are specific and factual are more useful and more efficiently analyzed.

An interdisciplinary team will rank expiring permits into priority categories based on public comments and all other information available. The ranking will help determine the appropriate level of NEPA documentation required to reach a decision on each term grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

At this time, our thoughts are to re-issue these permits using the authority granted to BLM by the authority provided under the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 (P.L. 108-108). However, we also plan to complete environmental assessments for the following grazing permit re-issuances:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Allotment No.</u>
Mex and Sons	Dry Creek Basin	17016
	Home Bench	17047
Kirk Alexander	Gypsum Gap	17002
Charles P. Hughes	Beards Corner	17059
Unallocated	Old Young	17041

Allotment Name and Number	Public Land Acres	Permittee	Landscape	Field Office	BLM Contact
Bush Canyon #17015	4,997	Jimmy D. Richardson	Dove Creek	Dolores	Bob Ball
Sandrock #08063	6,276	Ronald R. Ebberts	Dove Creek	Dolores	Bob Ball
Summit Mesa #17007	80	Gerald Calliham	Slickrock	Dolores	Bob Ball
East Summit Mesa #17009	130	Jack H. Calliham	Slickrock	Dolores	Bob Ball
Slick Rock #17034, Egnar Mesa #17026, Indian Valley #17046	37,429	Slickrock Grazing Association, LLC	Slickrock	Dolores	Annette Joseph
Summit Point #17019	1,691	Jim Butt	Slickrock	Dolores	Bob Ball
Buck Knob #17054	46	James Young	Lower Disappointment	Dolores	Bob Ball
Mud Springs #08040	972	Wester Messinger	Mancos-Cortez	Dolores	Mike Jensen
West Mesa Verde #08051	1,698	Gale Greenlee	Mancos-Cortez	Dolores	Roger Baker
Mancos Hill West #08061	335	Russell and Theresa Marcum	Mancos-Cortez	Dolores	Roger Baker

Desert Claim #17049	1,680	James T. and Linda C. Boulden	Upper Disappointme nt	Dolores	Bob Ball
North Canby #08460	40	Wayne Johnson	Durango	Columbin e	Jennifer Rowe
Florida River #08416	857	Agua Viva, LLC	Durango	Columbin e	Jennifer Rowe
Papoose Canyon #08065	1,085	Virgil C. and Mary J. Watkins	CANM	CANM	Mike Jensen

At this time we're planning to monitor the following allotments within the Lower Disappointment and Silverton landscapes. Annual monitoring priorities are based on local priorities as well as budget constraints. If you have concerns about the allotments to be monitored during 2006 please contact Bob Ball (Lower Disappointment) and Jennifer Rowe (Silverton) at the addresses shown above.

Table 1. FY 2006 Lower Disappointment Landscape Allotment Monitoring Schedule		
Grazing Allotment	Allotment Number	Public Land Acres
Gypsum Valleys	08068	40,764
RCA	17057	17,255
Disappointment Creek	17036	34,232

Table 2. FY 2006 Silverton Landscape Allotment Monitoring Schedule		
Grazing Allotment	Allotment Number	Public Land Acres
Eureka	08902	6,056
Gladstone	08901	3,468
Maggie Gulch	08911	6,100

Annually hereafter, the same process will be used. A public scoping notice will be posted on the Internet soliciting comments regarding grazing permits up for renewal for the following fiscal year.

If you have any information or concerns or wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, please contact the individual(s) at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do not have specific comments at this time, but have questions

about the allotments listed in this notice; also contact the individual at the address shown above.